

Transcript of Proceedings  
September 19, 2024

CHICAGO POLICE BOARD  
CITY OF CHICAGO  
PUBLIC MEETING

3510 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Thursday, September 19, 2024  
7:30 p.m.

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APPEARANCES:

MEMBERS OF THE POLICE BOARD:

KYLE COOPER, President  
PAULA WOLFF, Vice President  
CLAUDIA BADILLO  
STEVEN BLOCK (Telephonic)  
MAREILÉ CUSACK  
NANETTE DOORLEY  
KATHRYN LISS  
ANDREAS SAFAKAS

ALSO PRESENT:

LARRY SNELLING, Superintendent of the Chicago  
Police Department;  
ANDREA KERSTEN, Chief Administrator of the  
Civilian Office of Police Accountability;  
TOBARA RICHARDSON, Deputy Inspector General for  
Public Safety;  
TRACI WALKER, Deputy Chief of the Chicago Police  
Department's Bureau of Internal Affairs;  
AUDRIANA LOGAN, Deputy Director of Chicago Police  
Department Legal Affairs;  
ROBIN MURPHY, General Counsel of COPA;  
MAX CAPRONI, Executive Director of the Chicago  
Police Board;  
JAZMYNE ROLLINS, Executive Administrative  
Assistant Chicago Police Board;  
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

1           PRESIDENT COOPER: Good evening, ladies and  
2 gentlemen. We are now getting started with the  
3 Board's September meeting.

4                   My name is Kyle Cooper. I am the  
5 president of the Chicago Police Board, and I'm  
6 now calling the September meeting to order.

7                   We thank CAN-TV for always covering  
8 this meeting. It is being live-streamed at  
9 CAN-TV.org and on the CAN-TV app. Televised as  
10 well on CAN-TV 27.

11                   Along with myself, we have the  
12 following Board members attending in person this  
13 evening: Vice President Ms. Paula Wolff, Member  
14 Claudia Badillo, Member Mareile Cusack, Board  
15 Member Nanette Doorley, Board Member Kathryn  
16 Liss, and Board Member Andreas Safakas. Board  
17 Member Steven Block is unable to attend this  
18 meeting in person and would like to attend  
19 remotely. Is there a motion to permit him to do  
20 so?

21           VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: I so move. Paula  
22 Wolff.

23           BOARD MEMBER CUSACK: Second. Mareile  
24 Cusack.



1 minutes of the Board's public and closed meeting  
2 held on August 15th, 2024?

3 VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: So moved. Paula  
4 Wolff.

5 BOARD MEMBER CUSACK: Second. Mareile  
6 Cusack.

7 PRESIDENT COOPER: All in favor, please raise  
8 your hands and say aye.

9 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

10 PRESIDENT COOPER: Hearing and seeing no  
11 opposition, the motion passes.

12 The next regular public meeting of  
13 the Chicago Police Board will take place on  
14 Thursday, October 17th, at 7:30 p.m., and that  
15 meeting will be held where this meeting is and  
16 where Chicago Police Board meetings are always  
17 held, which is in person here at the Chicago  
18 Public Safety Headquarters.

19 The Police Board meets in executive  
20 session to discuss various matters. Those  
21 discussions are closed to the public as  
22 authorized by Section 2(c)(1), (4), (11), and  
23 (21) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.  
24 Information on matters discussed in the executive

1 sessions is included in the minutes of the  
2 meetings posted on the Board's website. Is there  
3 a motion to close a series of future executive  
4 sessions as authorized by these sections of the  
5 Open Meetings Act?

6 VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: So moved. Paula  
7 Wolff.

8 BOARD MEMBER CUSACK: Second. Mareile  
9 Cusack.

10 PRESIDENT COOPER: All in favor, please raise  
11 your hands and say aye.

12 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

13 PRESIDENT COOPER: Hearing and seeing no  
14 opposition, the motion passes.

15 So before we get into our regular  
16 business, one of the things that the Board wanted  
17 to do in response to some of the great public  
18 comments that we've seen over the last couple  
19 months is to give the members of the public who  
20 are here today and those listening and watching  
21 on CAN-TV a presentation as to the Board's powers  
22 and responsibilities.

23 Hopefully, this presentation will  
24 help educate the public as to what it is that the

1 Board does, what it is that the Board is  
2 empowered to do, and how the Board interacts with  
3 various different departments that are part of  
4 Chicago's police accountability system.

5 So with that being said, we prepared  
6 a PowerPoint presentation that we have displayed  
7 on the screen that's in front of the room here.  
8 We also have printout copies that are available  
9 to members of the public, and to the extent that  
10 anybody who wants a copy of the presentation but  
11 hasn't gotten one, you can please see one of the  
12 Board's employees, Ms. Jazmyne Rollins, who has a  
13 copy and walking around the room.

14 So as you will see from the chart  
15 that's displayed on this screen here, Chicago has  
16 an extensive civilian oversight of its police,  
17 with each of the four civilian agencies playing a  
18 vital role in the City's police accountability  
19 system. So you have the Community Commission for  
20 Public Safety and Accountability, which is called  
21 the CCPSA, the Deputy Inspector General for  
22 Public Safety, you have the Civilian Office of  
23 Police Accountability, or COPA, and you have the  
24 Police Board.

1                   The Community Commission for Public  
2                   Safety and Accountability was recently created in  
3                   2021, and it plays a central role in selecting  
4                   and removing the Superintendent of Police, the  
5                   COPA chief administrator, and the Police Board  
6                   members you see on the stage with you tonight.

7                   CCPSA also establishes goals for and  
8                   evaluates the performance of these officials. It  
9                   sets CPD policy and reviews the CPD budgets.

10                  The seven commissioners are  
11                  nominated by elected community members to serve  
12                  on District Councils in each of the City's police  
13                  districts. The mayor then appoints these  
14                  commissioners from a list of nominees. The  
15                  Deputy Inspector for pub -- Inspector General for  
16                  Public Safety is Ms. Tobara Richardson, sitting  
17                  to my right. She is here each month, and she  
18                  will be giving an update later tonight on some of  
19                  the progress and work that her office has been  
20                  doing.

21                  Her office has about a staff of 20.  
22                  It conducts inspections, evaluations, and reviews  
23                  of the processes, functions, operations, and  
24                  policies of the Chicago Police Department, COPA,

1 and the Police Board.

2 The Inspector General can initiate  
3 an investigation and suggest complaints and  
4 suggestions for investigations.

5 The Civilian Office of Police  
6 Accountability, or COPA, is led by Chief  
7 Administrator Andrea Kersten, who is also here  
8 with us each month, and her office, which has a  
9 staff of about 150, investigates all police  
10 shootings, and deaths in custody, and all  
11 allegations of excessive force, 4th and 6th  
12 Amendment violations, as well as bias-based  
13 verbal abuse, coercion, sexual misconduct, and  
14 domestic violence.

15 Like these three agencies, the  
16 Police Board also plays an important role in  
17 Chicago Police's accountability system. And our  
18 focus this evening is to explain exactly what it  
19 is that the Police Board does.

20 So as you will see from the list  
21 that we're about to show, the Police Board has  
22 five separate functions that are created by  
23 ordinance, by law, and by the City Council, and  
24 signed by the mayor.



1                   The first power that the Police  
2 Board has is it decides disciplinary cases  
3 brought against sworn officers of the Chicago  
4 Police Department. It also decides appeals by  
5 disqualified applicants to become Chicago police  
6 officers. The third power it has it adopts rules  
7 and regulations for the governance of the Chicago  
8 Police Department. It makes policy  
9 recommendations to Chicago Police Department, and  
10 it does what we're doing right here today, which  
11 is hold public meetings that provide a unique  
12 opportunity for community engagement with the  
13 Chicago Police Department Superintendent and  
14 civilian oversight leaders.

15                   We are now going to go into a deeper  
16 dive into each of these five powers that the  
17 Police Board possesses. For that, I'm going to  
18 turn the first PowerPoint presentation to Board  
19 Member Ms. Claudia Badillo.

20                   BOARD MEMBER BADILLO: Good evening. My name  
21 is Claudia Badillo. I'm a member of the Chicago  
22 Police Board, and I wanted to talk a little bit  
23 about who we are as Board members.

24                   We are a diverse group of

1 Chicagoans who come to the Board from different  
2 backgrounds and professions. The Municipal Code  
3 and Consent Decree requires Board members have  
4 ten years of experience in certain professions,  
5 at least four Board members must be attorneys, at  
6 least one, but no more than two, must be a former  
7 sworn law enforcement officer, and at least must  
8 have experience in community engagement or  
9 organizing.

10 All nine of us live in the City,  
11 and therefore have a stake in making sure that  
12 all Chicagoans receive the most constitutional,  
13 respectful, effective, and professional police  
14 protection and service as possible.

15 There is an extensive process for  
16 selecting Board members. The CCPSA conducts  
17 community outreach to encourage applications,  
18 introduce candidates, and nominate three  
19 candidates for each vacancy to the mayor. The  
20 mayor must make appointments from CCPSA's list of  
21 nominees or request a new list. Appointments to  
22 the Board must be approved by the City Council.

23 Finally, appointment for a fixed  
24 term of five years is intended to ensure the

1 independence of Board members.

2 There is also a term limit - Board  
3 members who have served for ten years are not  
4 eligible for reappointment.

5 VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: Thank you. Now, I'd  
6 like to return to the topic of the Police Board  
7 responsibilities to decide disciplinary cases.  
8 This has been the most visible function the  
9 Police Board has had for decades, and it's how  
10 you know the Police Board.

11 Other accountability agencies  
12 responsible for investigating alleged police  
13 misconduct, COPA, and the CPD Bureau of Internal  
14 Affairs - which investigates cases which COPA  
15 does not have jurisdiction over - do rigorous  
16 reviews of police actions that are subject of  
17 complaints.

18 The Police Board then is  
19 responsible for making decisions about the  
20 findings of these investigations. The Board is  
21 sort of like a court, reviewing the evidence  
22 presented through the investigations.

23 There are two main types of  
24 disciplinary cases handled by the Police Board.

1 They come to the Board in two different ways.  
2 The first is what we call "Disagreement Cases."  
3 These are cases that COPA has investigated and  
4 shares its recommendation for discipline with the  
5 Superintendent of CPD. If the two entities don't  
6 agree, that's what we call a Disagreement Case.  
7 Obviously, they don't agree, so it's Disagreement  
8 Case.

9                   When the COPA Chief Administrator  
10 and the Superintendent of Police do not agree  
11 regarding discipline of a CPD officer, and the  
12 Superintendent is proposing less or no  
13 discipline, the matter is referred to one Police  
14 Board member only. The Board member is randomly  
15 selected, reviews the recommendations of COPA and  
16 CPD and then rules on the disagreement. And each  
17 ruling is announced at a public meeting like this  
18 one, and the opinion is posted on the Police  
19 Board's website.

20                   I'm sorry. If the Board member  
21 believes the Superintendent's recommendation is  
22 more reasonable and appropriate, the  
23 Superintendent's discipline is imposed.

24                   If the Board member believes that

1 COPA's recommendation is not overcome, the  
2 Superintendent is required by law to accept the  
3 recommendation.

4 Over the last five years, there have  
5 been 57 rulings for COPA and 17 for the  
6 Superintendent in Disagreement Cases.

7 BOARD MEMBER CUSACK: The second type of case  
8 handled by the Board is what we call "Discharge  
9 Cases." These are cases for which the  
10 recommendation is to discharge an officer from  
11 the Chicago Police Department. The role of the  
12 Board is to be impartial and make decisions based  
13 on the evidence made part of the record at the  
14 disciplinary hearing.

15 As you can see from the flowchart,  
16 when the Superintendent or COPA recommends  
17 discharge, written charges are filed with the  
18 Board after being prepared by the City's Law  
19 Department. The charges are served on the  
20 accused officer and then posted on the Board's  
21 website. There will be a hearing, which is  
22 similar to a trial court -- to a trial in court  
23 that is open to the public and presided over by a  
24 hearing officer. Witnesses are subpoenaed and

1 testify under oath.

2 The Board members are required to  
3 review the complete video recording and  
4 transcript of the hearing, which often lasts 10  
5 to 15 hours over several days, and then decide  
6 the case based only on the evidence presented at  
7 the hearing.

8 The Board members first thoroughly  
9 discuss the case in executive session and then  
10 take a final vote at a public meeting, issue a  
11 detailed written decision and post it on our  
12 website.

13 The Board members who ruled on  
14 related disagreement cases or have a conflict of  
15 interest, such as knowing one of the parties  
16 involved in the case, must recuse themselves and  
17 not take part in discussing or deciding the case.

18 Over the past five years, the Board  
19 has charged 23 officers, suspended 18 officers,  
20 and found 11 officers not guilty. In addition,  
21 21 officers resigned from the CPD prior to  
22 hearing on the charges.

23 58 percent of the Board's decisions  
24 are unanimous -- were unanimous and 42 percent

1 had at least one Board member dissenting from the  
2 majority.

3 The Board uses the same process to  
4 decide cases for which the disciplinary  
5 recommendation is a suspension of more than one  
6 year. Such cases are rare. Only one such case  
7 has been filed with the Board in the past five  
8 years.

9 BOARD MEMBER LISS: When a person who applies  
10 to become a Chicago police officer is removed  
11 from the eligibility list by the Office of Public  
12 Safety Administration due to the results of a  
13 background investigation, the applicant has a  
14 right to appeal the disqualification decision to  
15 the Police Board.

16 Examples of alleged conduct at issue  
17 in these appeals are passed violent behavior,  
18 making a false statement, and prior illegal drug  
19 use. The Police Board website has detailed  
20 information for applicants on the appeal process,  
21 including how to request free legal  
22 representation.

23 The applicant must show by a  
24 preponderance of the evidence the

1 disqualification decision was in error.

2           The role of the Board is to conduct  
3 an independent and thorough review of the appeal  
4 and then either affirm the disqualification  
5 decision or reinstate the applicant to the  
6 eligibility list.

7           The Police Board's responsible for  
8 adopting the rules and regulations for the  
9 governance of the Chicago Police Department.

10           These rules and regulations  
11 establish the general goals and duties of CPD  
12 members and set forth the rules of conduct every  
13 officer is required to follow. Examples of the  
14 rules of conduct are prohibitions on the  
15 officer's use of excessive force, unjustified use  
16 of a weapon, making false statements, and failing  
17 to report misconduct.

18           The current rules and regulations  
19 are available at the website indicated on the  
20 slide, but I'll read it for those who would like  
21 to write this down. It's  
22 [Chicago.gov/PoliceBoard](http://Chicago.gov/PoliceBoard). All one word.

23           The Board is committed to using an  
24 open process with extensive community engagement



1 when revising or adopting new rules and  
2 regulations.

3 BOARD MEMBER DOORLEY: Once the Board decides  
4 -- as the Board decides police disciplinary  
5 cases, it may recognize the need for improvement  
6 to CPD policies.

7 The Board has the authority under  
8 the Municipal Code and the Consent Decree to make  
9 policy recommendations to the Chicago Police  
10 Department. For example, the Board has made  
11 policy recommendations to CPD on tracking  
12 overtime, ensuring certification to carry and use  
13 Tasers, and notifying officers of medical roll  
14 procedures.

15 These recommendations will be  
16 posted on the Board's website along with CPD's  
17 responses.

18 BOARD MEMBER SAFAKAS: Good evening,  
19 everyone. Can you hear me okay? Great. Thank  
20 you.

21 Thank you for being here. The  
22 Police Board public meetings provide a unique  
23 opportunity for community engagement with the CPD  
24 Superintendent and civilian oversight leaders.

1                   And as you can see, all meetings are  
2     live-streamed and televised by CAN-TV.

3                   The communication at the meetings is  
4     not just one way; however, significant time is  
5     set aside at every meeting for members of the  
6     public to raise questions and to offer comments,  
7     and we want you to know that all Board members  
8     place great importance on your input as we carry  
9     out our responsibilities. Thank you.

10                  VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: We'll talk now about  
11     the Consent Decree.

12                   On January 31st of 2019, the U.S.  
13     District Court approved a Consent Decree between  
14     the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago.

15                   The goals of the Consent Decree  
16     include ensuring lawful and constitutional  
17     policing, building trust between police officers  
18     and the community they serve, and promoting  
19     community and officer safety, and providing CPD  
20     members with the resources and support that they  
21     need.

22                   To achieve these goals, the Consent  
23     Decree requires changes in the areas of community  
24     policing, impartial policing, crisis

1 intervention, use of force, recruitment, hiring  
2 and promotions, training supervision, officer  
3 wellness and support, accountability and  
4 transparency, and data collection analysis and  
5 management.

6                   The Chicago Police Department and  
7 the City's police accountability agencies, which  
8 Kyle talked about in the beginning, are  
9 responsible for implementing the Consent Decree's  
10 requirements. And I will speak about the Police  
11 Board's responsibility.

12                   The Police Board has made  
13 significant progress by putting in place reforms  
14 in the areas of police accountability and  
15 transparency.

16                   Of the 14 -- sorry. For example,  
17 the Police Board has streamlined discovery in  
18 disciplinary cases and has written hearing  
19 officer reports of evidence presented at  
20 hearings. We track the reports on responses to  
21 community input on monthly public meetings, and  
22 we expanded training for Police Board member -  
23 we had a training tonight - and hearing officers,  
24 and we publish the aggregate and case-specific

1 data and disciplinary cases.

2 So if you want to see what the  
3 Police Board has done, we have an annual report  
4 that's available on our website.

5 Of the 14 paragraphs the Police  
6 Board is responsible for implementing, the  
7 Independent Monitor found the Police Board to be  
8 in full compliance with the requirements of 11  
9 paragraphs and in preliminary compliance with 3  
10 paragraphs. That means we're on our way to being  
11 full compliance on those 3 paragraphs.

12 Full compliance means that we have  
13 successfully implemented the reforms in practice,  
14 and preliminary compliance means the Board has  
15 established the framework and resources to  
16 achieve the reform.

17 Board members have or will be  
18 completing training on use of force, 4th  
19 Amendment law governing stops and searches,  
20 impartial policing, community outreach, and other  
21 topics.

22 PRESIDENT COOPER: So as many of you know,  
23 every month we continue to provide an update to  
24 the public as to where things stand with respect

1 to the Circuit Court case that was filed by the  
2 FOP regarding the arbitration option.

3 Just for by way of background, in  
4 March of this year, Circuit Court of Cook County  
5 confirmed that Chicago police officers or members  
6 of the Fraternal Order of Police have the right  
7 to choose to have their discharge cases heard by  
8 an arbitrator, as opposed to by members of the  
9 Police Board. That case is currently on appeal,  
10 and it is now before the Appellate Court, and we  
11 will continue to update the public as to any new  
12 and updated information regarding that case.

13 We wanted to let you know that the  
14 City's response to the FOP's appeal is scheduled  
15 to be filed in early October, and the FOP will  
16 have 14 days from the date of the City's response  
17 to file a reply. We wanted to review this  
18 because this lawsuit could have a serious impact  
19 on the Board's ability to continue to hear  
20 disciplinary cases, whereas before, officers and  
21 members of the FOP did not have the option to  
22 choose arbitration. Those discharge cases were  
23 heard by the members of this Board, and that  
24 decision that's currently pending at the

1 Appellate Court could have serious impact on the  
2 Board's continuing ability to do so.

3 We hear during public comment, and  
4 one of the reasons why we wanted to have this  
5 presentation today, is that many people who feel  
6 like they had filed complaints are concerned that  
7 the conduct of officers under investigation are  
8 not going to have their day in court, and we want  
9 to make sure that -- clear and in the future that  
10 the Board will only be able to hear, at least as  
11 this case currently stands, cases where officers  
12 are chosen to have their discharge and suspension  
13 cases heard before the Police Board.

14 Many officers may end up choosing  
15 to have these cases heard by an arbitrator.

16 Almost all of FOP members, 13 of 15  
17 cases, with cases before the Board have chosen  
18 arbitration, which is why we are bringing this  
19 back to the public. These 13 cases are currently  
20 on hold, and there will be no arbitration  
21 hearings until the establishment of a public  
22 arbitration process, and there will be no Police  
23 Board hearings without the consent of these  
24 accused officers.

1                   No new cases against FOP members  
2                   have been filed with the Board since the March  
3                   21st Circuit Court ruling, whereas on average in  
4                   the past years, at least 15 cases would have been  
5                   filed with the Board by this time.

6                   The City's brief in the appellate  
7                   case, as I mentioned, is due in October, and the  
8                   Union will have an opportunity to file a reply.

9                   We think it is likely that this case  
10                  will not be decided by the Illinois Appellate  
11                  Court until early 2025, if not a little bit  
12                  later.

13                  And the final update we have  
14                  regarding arbitration is that cases against CPD  
15                  supervisors will proceed against the Board, as  
16                  the Circuit Court's decision only impacted  
17                  members of the Fraternal Order of Police. And,  
18                  in fact, the Board has one new case against a CPD  
19                  sergeant that has been filed with the Board in  
20                  2024.

21                  So the last slide we have is just  
22                  more general information where members of the  
23                  public or any interested members of the City's  
24                  accountability department can go to find more

1 information about what it is the Board does,  
2 about police discipline, about the public  
3 meetings that take place here every third  
4 Thursday of each month, about the Consent Decree,  
5 about CPD applicant appeals, and any news that  
6 the Police Board posts on its website, and the  
7 Board will continue to keep its website updated  
8 with any new and current information, so that  
9 members of the public can have access to it.

10 Just so members of the public know,  
11 that there are specific sections on our website  
12 that deal with police discipline, the Board's  
13 public meetings, the Consent Decree, and any news  
14 updates.

15 Moreover, all of the Board's  
16 decisions, as well as a list of police  
17 disciplinary cases currently before the Board,  
18 are on the website.

19 The public meeting section also  
20 includes videos of these meetings that take place  
21 and that are filmed by CAN-TV and the reports of  
22 community responses and input. So we want  
23 everybody to know that we take your comments and  
24 concerns seriously. And one of the reasons why



1 we wanted to have this presentation today is to  
2 educate the public as to what it is that the  
3 Board does, what it can do, what it can't do, and  
4 how it interacts or relates to the other  
5 departments who are responsible for overseeing  
6 police supervision in the City.

7 So with that, I will next turn to  
8 items on our agenda, which is the appeals by  
9 disqualified applicants to become Chicago police  
10 officers.

11 When a person applies to become a  
12 Chicago police officer is disqualified and  
13 removed from the eligibility list due to the  
14 results of a background investigation, that  
15 person has a right to appeal that decision to the  
16 Police Board. The Board, as authorized by the  
17 Open Meetings Act, has discussed in a closed  
18 session several appeals. We will now take final  
19 action on these appeals.

20 Is there a motion to affirm the  
21 disqualification decision for the following  
22 appeals: 24AA30 through 34, and reverse the  
23 disqualification decision for the appeal that is  
24 filed 24-AA-29?

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1           VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: So moved. Paula  
2           Wolff.

3           BOARD MEMBER CUSACK: Second. Mareile  
4           Cusack.

5           PRESIDENT COOPER: I will now call on members  
6           of the Board for their votes.

7                           Vice president Ms. Paula Wolff.

8           VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: Aye.

9           PRESIDENT COOPER: Member Badillo.

10          BOARD MEMBER BADILLO: Aye.

11          PRESIDENT COOPER: Member Block.

12          BOARD MEMBER BLOCK: Aye.

13          PRESIDENT COOPER: Member Cusack.

14          BOARD MEMBER CUSACK: Aye.

15          PRESIDENT COOPER: Member Doorley.

16          BOARD MEMBER DOORLEY: Aye.

17          PRESIDENT COOPER: Member Liss.

18          BOARD MEMBER LISS: Aye.

19          PRESIDENT COOPER: Member Safakas.

20          BOARD MEMBER SAFAKAS: Aye.

21          PRESIDENT COOPER: I also vote in favor of  
22          the motion.

23                           Voting in favor are Board Members  
24          Wolff, Badillo, Block, Cusack, Doorley, Liss,

1 Safakas, and myself. The motion passes.

2 The written decisions of these  
3 appeals will be entered as of today's date, sent  
4 to the parties and promptly posted on the Board's  
5 website.

6 At this time, I will now call on the  
7 Superintendent of Police, Officer Larry  
8 Snelling -- Chief Larry Snelling to give his  
9 report.

10 Before I do that, I just want to  
11 commend and give extreme kudos to Superintendent  
12 Snelling for the excellent work you and your  
13 Department did during the DNC. Not only was the  
14 City watching, but it's safe to say that the  
15 nation and, frankly, large parts of the world  
16 were, and I think you and your officers did an  
17 absolute stand-up job. I want to really commend  
18 you and your officers for doing a great job.

19 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Thank you for that,  
20 President. I don't think I need a mic. Can  
21 everybody hear me? Very good.

22 So I just want to talk about just a  
23 few things. All right. Sorry about that. First  
24 thing I want to talk about is since the last

1 meeting, we obviously had the DNC, something we  
2 were prepared for for over a year. As you can  
3 see, it turned out successfully.

4 One of the promises that I made was  
5 to make sure that we didn't deplete the  
6 neighborhoods' protection and police response  
7 during the DNC and dedicate all of our resources  
8 to that.

9 As a result -- as a result of that,  
10 during that time between the 19th and the 22nd of  
11 August, shootings were down 27 percent across the  
12 City, homicides were down 31 percent, vehicle  
13 hijackings were down 35 percent, and armed  
14 robberies were down 54 percent. So we saw a  
15 decrease of our major crimes and violent  
16 crimes -- our most violent crimes in our  
17 neighborhoods during that week.

18 Obviously, there's still a lot of  
19 work to do.

20 Now, one of the things that I can  
21 tell you about the response to the DNC, our  
22 officers were out there making sure that we were  
23 protecting everyone's First Amendment rights.  
24 That comes with training. That comes with

1 preparation. And as we continue to train and  
2 prepare, this is the side of policing that we  
3 want to apply across the board. This wasn't just  
4 for the DNC, but the DNC is proof positive that  
5 if you take human beings and put them in a room  
6 and train them, tell them what you want them to  
7 do, you hold them accountable to that, the work  
8 can be done.

9                   When we treat human beings like  
10 human beings, they treat human beings like human  
11 beings. And that comes with training. That  
12 comes with leadership. So this wasn't a  
13 bottom-down effect where we just reached out to  
14 the officers. The accountability started from  
15 the top, from our leadership, to make sure that  
16 the leadership was out there making sure that the  
17 rules were being followed, the training was  
18 effective, and that that training was being  
19 carried out in a way that it was taught to our  
20 officers.

21                   Our leadership was out there for  
22 support. Accountability is support. Making sure  
23 that our officers are acting in a manner that is  
24 absolutely necessary for these things to be

1 successful.

2 That being said, moving forward with  
3 our training, the same concepts that we apply to  
4 a year-long training for the DNC, the same  
5 concept that we will apply to our training for  
6 our officers responding to neighborhoods, day in  
7 and day out.

8 The top-down approach where the  
9 leadership is accountable for everything that  
10 happens in the field. Without that leadership,  
11 our officers are lost. If we don't have  
12 leadership -- and that goes for anybody in  
13 life -- if we don't have the proper leadership,  
14 making sure that the rules are being followed, we  
15 lose our way. That comes with training and  
16 preparation. It also comes with accountability.

17 I couldn't be more proud of the way  
18 that our officers responded to their training to  
19 make sure that people's rights were protected  
20 while at the same time protecting the City and  
21 making sure people were as safe as possible.

22 It's going to be important that we  
23 make sure that we get community feedback, because  
24 our Consent Decree is important. I've embraced

1 that Consent Decree.

2 Part of what we did for the DNC was  
3 led by the IMT, Independent Monitoring Team, and  
4 the OIG was overseeing the Consent Decree, the  
5 Office of Attorney General.

6 We want that feedback. Most of the  
7 times when we open up for public comment, we're  
8 not getting a lot of information. When we put  
9 out information for public comment, it would be  
10 greatly appreciated if we could get more feedback  
11 from community members and your notes on these  
12 things. We take these things seriously. We took  
13 that feedback for preparation of the DNC, we  
14 would like to continue to do that as we move it  
15 forward, and we continue to build our  
16 partnerships in these neighborhoods. It's going  
17 to be important.

18 We know that people have grievances,  
19 have issues, have problems, and we want to  
20 address those things. We want to make sure that  
21 our officers are equipped with the tools to go  
22 out and do the job that we expect them to do. We  
23 can't expect our officers to be successful if the  
24 leadership is not supporting them with those

1 tools and by getting them those resources. And  
2 that's what we're going to continue to work  
3 toward, and we're also going to continue to work  
4 for the public to make sure that we continue to  
5 build these relationships. Thank you.

6 Give it back to you, President.

7 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Superintendent.  
8 And now I'll call on Chief Administrator of COPA,  
9 Ms. Andrea Kersten, to give her report.

10 CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR KERSTEN: Thank you.  
11 Good evening. I'd like to also just kind of  
12 start where Superintendent Snelling left off with  
13 respect to the DNC, and obviously the level of  
14 preparation that went into that for CPD meant the  
15 success for the entire City that Superintendent  
16 Snelling was describing.

17 And I just want to personally thank  
18 the Chicago Police Department, particularly the  
19 training division for making available to COPA  
20 staff as well as members of the Cook County  
21 State's Attorney's Office and the City of Chicago  
22 Department of Law some of the specific DNC  
23 training that their officers, as Superintendent  
24 Snelling was just going over, received in



1 preparation for this event, and they made sure  
2 that we also had access to that, which really  
3 helped us prepare for our role, if that was  
4 necessary.

5           What I can report, though, is that  
6 in that preparation, we actually only received 17  
7 complaints in the thousands of police encounters  
8 that happened during the week of the DNC. 17,  
9 one-seven, complaints were lodged with COPA. And  
10 on behalf of officers as well. Just wanted to  
11 report that and thank the Superintendent for his  
12 leadership and the leadership particularly in the  
13 training department for making sure that all  
14 parts of the City were working in collaboration  
15 together to be ready for that event.

16           As I do every month at the Police  
17 Board -- yes, thank you. As I do every month at  
18 the Police Board, I kind of like to report out on  
19 what we received the month before.

20           So in the month of August, COPA did  
21 receive 390 complaints and notifications, only 80  
22 of those actually fell under COPA's jurisdiction,  
23 meaning we retained 80 of those cases.

24           Last month, COPA staff in August

1 concluded 53 total investigations, and of those,  
2 only 16 had any sustained findings. So those 16  
3 cases with sustained findings out of the 53 that  
4 we closed were, of course, sent for review by the  
5 Chicago Police Department, either Command Channel  
6 Review or the Superintendent's office's review,  
7 and we look forward to their response.

8 We also released two different  
9 videos, packages of transparency materials,  
10 videos and other documentation, relative to two  
11 different officer-involved shootings last month.  
12 We also had 36 different community engagement  
13 events that COPA was present at and participating  
14 in across the City, and we had the ability to  
15 make sure that we're reaching as many members of  
16 Chicago's very vast diverse community to explain  
17 the work and role that we play in the  
18 accountability system.

19 I'd also like to just lift up a  
20 couple of other things. We have upcoming our --  
21 what I believe is our fourth COPA's People's  
22 Academy, which is a great opportunity for members  
23 of the public across the City to learn more about  
24 what we do and how we do it.

1                   Some of the specific topics in this  
2 free, open-to-the-public event that people can  
3 sign up for and register for, that you can learn  
4 about are things about the history of civilian  
5 oversight here in Chicago and why it's an  
6 important part of our system of public safety,  
7 our jurisdiction, how do you file a complaint,  
8 what we -- how we do our video release policy and  
9 how we analyze video, witness reliability, how we  
10 look at Fourth Amendment or improper search or  
11 seizure complaints, also how we draft our summary  
12 reports, how we make our disciplinary decisions,  
13 and really what our ultimate role is in the  
14 disciplinary process, all of these things are  
15 topics that I think many members of the public  
16 often have questions about. So what we try to do  
17 is make that information available to the public.  
18 And you have the ability to engage directly with  
19 myself and every other member of our senior  
20 leadership team and other leaders and workers and  
21 staff throughout the agency that want to show up  
22 and explain the work that we do to the people  
23 that we do that work for.

24                   So that fourth People's Academy is

1 going to be entirely online, so if you don't want  
2 to drive anywhere or brave cold weather, starting  
3 on October 22nd, every Tuesday evening from 6:00  
4 to 8:30 for six weeks, feel free to join us for  
5 one or all of those sessions. The information on  
6 how to register is on our website at  
7 ChicagoCOPA.org, and I really invite anyone that  
8 has questions about how we do this work to come  
9 and learn firsthand how we go about the job that  
10 we are tasked with at COPA.

11 And then, lastly, I'd just like to  
12 touch a little bit on the Consent Decree with  
13 respect to COPA's responsibilities. First of  
14 all, I really appreciate the Police Board members  
15 all sort of laying out the role that you guys  
16 play in the system. I thought that was  
17 particularly helpful for myself to go over some  
18 of these complicated nuances of our  
19 accountability system. But also certainly for  
20 members of the public, and you sort of wrapped it  
21 up a lot in the responsibilities and obligations  
22 that you all bear under the City's Consent  
23 Decree. COPA, as well, has many obligations  
24 under the federal Consent Decree, primarily in

1 the accountability and transparency section. I  
2 believe we have 83 paragraphs that we're either  
3 totally responsible or partly responsible for  
4 implementing. I can very proudly announce that  
5 COPA is over 90 percent or right at 90 percent  
6 fully operationally compliant with 90 percent of  
7 the our Consent Decree obligations.

8 So the vast majority of the  
9 paragraphs that define how we investigate cases,  
10 ensure we're not doing so with bias or animus,  
11 how we look at evidence, how we deliver  
12 transparency, all of those -- 90 percent of those  
13 requirements are met fully under operational  
14 compliance as deemed by the federal monitoring  
15 team. So that's a tremendous accomplishment for  
16 our agency, and we are excited that the Police  
17 Board is well on their way to full compliance as  
18 well. Those are the foundations for how we make  
19 a system that functions well, a system that can  
20 collaborate together in this vast slideshow of  
21 all the complicated parts of our system. It only  
22 works when we're doing it together. And so I  
23 think the Consent Decree is an incredibly  
24 powerful roadmap and tool to ensure we're all on

1 that path together working for a safer city.

2 I will leave with you that and thank  
3 you for the time.

4 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Chief  
5 Administrator Kersten.

6 I will now call on Deputy Inspector  
7 General Tobara Richardson to take a few minutes  
8 to discuss her office's 2023 annual report.

9 DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL RICHARDSON: Hi.  
10 Are you able to hear me?

11 Hello, everyone. My name is Tobara  
12 Richardson. I serve as the Deputy Inspector  
13 General for Public Safety with the City of  
14 Chicago, Office of Inspector General.

15 The OIG is an independent and  
16 non-partisan oversight agency and the public  
17 safety section exists within the Office of  
18 Inspector General in order to provide specific  
19 resources for police accountability and  
20 oversight.

21 I will carry on the theme and say  
22 that this year we published -- I will get to what  
23 I'm supposed to be talking about. But this year  
24 we published a report on CPD's preparedness for

1 mass gatherings in which we provided  
2 recommendations. We also had an opportunity to  
3 observe the trainings and preparation for the  
4 DNC, and we were able to see that they had even  
5 in that training implemented some of our  
6 recommendations. So we appreciate that  
7 opportunity.

8 Now, what I am here to talk about at  
9 this moment specifically is that the Public  
10 Safety Section's 2023 annual report is available,  
11 and I want to briefly give a high-level overview  
12 of what is contained therein.

13 So along with what the Public Safety  
14 Section does, they are sections that correlate.  
15 So, for example, with regard to oversight, you  
16 will be able to observe there are summaries of  
17 the evaluations and inquiries conducted by the  
18 public section in 2023. Some of those topics  
19 include CPD's enforcement of the rule against  
20 making false reports, CPD's enforcement of rules  
21 requiring CPD members to report misconduct, CPD's  
22 response time to 911 calls, the community police  
23 mediation pilot program, along with CPD search  
24 warrant process. So those are a few of the

1 summaries that you will see there.

2           Additionally, one unit of the public  
3 safety section reviews closed disciplinary  
4 investigations. So you will be able to see that  
5 in 2023, the public safety section screened 1,289  
6 closed disciplinary investigations, just over 50  
7 percent -- approximately 55 percent were  
8 investigations conducted by the Bureau of  
9 Internal Affairs with within CPD, BIA, and  
10 approximately 44 percent of those investigations  
11 were conducted by the Civilian Office of Police  
12 Accountability, COPA, and what we do is we screen  
13 those investigations. We're looking at whether  
14 there are any deficiencies that would materially  
15 affect the outcome, and if we find those  
16 deficiencies, we send recommendations to reopen  
17 to the respective entity.

18           In 2023, we sent 13 recommendations  
19 to reopen, three of those recommendations were to  
20 the Bureau of Internal Affairs. They accepted  
21 all three of those recommendations. I will just  
22 note that was in 2023. And 10 of the  
23 recommendations were sent to COPA. They declined  
24 6 of those recommendations or 60 percent and



1 accepted 4 of the recommendations or 40 percent.

2           Additionally, we have -- the goal is  
3 accountability and transparency. So we have  
4 public safety dashboards. If you go to  
5 IGChicago.org, click on the information portal,  
6 and then you can specifically click on the public  
7 safety dashboards, you will see dashboards  
8 related to, say, for example, 911 calls or  
9 demographics of CPD members, tactical response  
10 reports, which are reports officers are required  
11 to fill out when there is use of force or  
12 investigatory stop report which are reports when  
13 officers conduct stops.

14           So we have a number of dashboards  
15 there. And what we've done is we have provided  
16 key takeaways as it pertains to the 2023 data.  
17 That's all available on the website. So there's  
18 a lot of information in the annual report. Just  
19 go to IGChicago.org, you can click on  
20 publications. It should be the second item  
21 listed, or in the search function if you put in  
22 annual report, it should be the third item  
23 listed, and you will be able to find all of the  
24 information there.

1                   Last thing I will say, continuing  
2     the theme is, in 2023, the Office of Inspector  
3     General and the Public Safety Section became the  
4     first and only City component that achieved and  
5     maintained full compliance with the Consent  
6     Decree. And so you can look at the annual report  
7     itself for more details, and you can also tune in  
8     next Thursday, September 26th, at 12:30 p.m.  
9     where I will give a more in-depth presentation to  
10    the Joint Committee hearings of the Public Safety  
11    Committee and the Police and Fire Committee.  
12    Thank you.

13                PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Deputy  
14    Inspector Richardson.

15                   At this point, I will now call on  
16    members of the public who have signed up in  
17    advance to speak to provide their public  
18    comments.

19                   As always, because we want to hear  
20    from all members of the public, we will just ask  
21    that you would adhere to our rules and keep your  
22    comments limited to two minutes. As many of you  
23    who come to these meetings know, I'm fairly  
24    flexible when it comes to that time. So if you

1 can just meet me halfway there, and we'll do our  
2 best to make sure that everybody gets heard.

3 So with that being said, I would  
4 like to call Ms. June Norfleet up for comment.

5 MS. NORFLEET: Hello. As always, good  
6 evening, Board. Good evening, Superintendent.  
7 How is everyone? And good evening, neighbors.

8 I signed up, but half the time I  
9 don't really want to speak. But this week, we  
10 had a memorial service for a good friend of the  
11 Police Department. A good neighbor.

12 Between 2014 and 2016, the majority  
13 of my neighbors and myself, we lived out of the  
14 back of our homes. We were terrorized by those  
15 people who did not want to cooperate in a civic  
16 manner. So on this block of mature individuals,  
17 we did most of our living in and out of the back,  
18 because we didn't have access -- we didn't feel  
19 safe. We didn't feel safe until a man decided to  
20 go door-to-door, knock on every door and tell  
21 people, If you do not want to be a good neighbor,  
22 it is not -- this is not the place for you to be.  
23 He didn't wait for CPD. He didn't wait for a  
24 DCO. He didn't wait for a beat sergeant. They

1 were out there. They eventually showed up. But  
2 it was Robert Hodges who made it possible to tell  
3 the numbnuts that we have a right to be here.

4 And I just want to give -- I just  
5 have to salute him, because CPD and all of these  
6 various parts -- moving parts, COPA, the Board,  
7 Inspector General, you have no benefit without  
8 the residents. Absolutely none. So kudos and  
9 thank you to the Hodges Family. May he rest in  
10 heavily power.

11 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Ms. Norfleet.  
12 The next individual who signed up to speak is  
13 Niena Hemik. I apologize if I'm pronouncing that  
14 name incorrectly.

15 MS. HEMIK: That's an error. I did not sign  
16 up.

17 PRESIDENT COOPER: Okay. The next speaker is  
18 Rabbi Michael Ben Yosef.

19 RABBI BEN YOSEF: I have something for the  
20 Board.

21 Good evening, the Chicago Police  
22 Board, Superintendent Snelling, and constituents.  
23 My name is Rabbi Michael Ben Yosef. I am here on  
24 behalf of Reginald Clay, Junior. Can the family

1 please stand? Say his name. Say his name. Say  
2 his name. Say his name. Say his name.

3 Tomorrow is Reginald Clay's  
4 birthday. He is now going to be celebrating his  
5 birthday unalived because of the Chicago Police  
6 Board -- Police Department, excuse me, and this  
7 family has to celebrate the birthday without  
8 their loved one, the first birthday. Second.  
9 Excuse me. Thank you so much.

10 Reginald Clay, Junior, was murdered  
11 by killer cop Fernando Ruiz who chased him as a  
12 runaway slave. Tomorrow is his birthday. May it  
13 be a blessing to his family, and we will continue  
14 to be his voice until justice is served.

15 The Chicago Police Department's  
16 under a federal Consent Decree, as we heard  
17 tonight. Regardless of that, this Chicago Police  
18 reform, murders still happen. Foot pursuit  
19 policy prohibits police officers to chase  
20 civilians, but it still happened.

21 Did you know there is a Stanford law  
22 report, which you all have here in front of you?  
23 This school conducted a review on Chicago Police.  
24 It says -- I'll give a clip what it says. The

1 dangers of the foot pursuit by Chicago Police  
2 Department was initiated by the Adam Toledo  
3 murder and Anthony Alvarez murder, which now led  
4 to Reginald Clay's murder. It's same exact  
5 example.

6 They quote in their report, "Over an  
7 eight-year period in Chicago, half of all the  
8 police shootings occurred immediately after a  
9 foot pursuit. The danger in foot pursuits leads  
10 to the risk that curb -- when then adrenalin rush  
11 and fatigue, it may impair officer judgment."  
12 That's what happened to Reginald, because he  
13 chased him and his adrenalin was running, and he  
14 murdered him in cold blood.

15 The reason why Chicago Police wants  
16 their crimes, murders, and brutality held in  
17 arbitration, because they oppose transparency.  
18 They want to hide their crimes from the public,  
19 and it's absolutely unacceptable.

20 They don't care about our public  
21 safety. They don't care about our well-being.  
22 All they care about is brutality and the murder  
23 of innocent victims.

24 Chicago Police is not compliant, as

1 I heard, with the federal Consent Decree, because  
2 you do not follow your own rules. You are not  
3 compliant when you sit there and have a  
4 closed-door meeting where people can't hear what  
5 you have done.

6 If you're truly about public safety,  
7 and police involvement and community involvement,  
8 we will reject that arbitration emphatically.  
9 Thank you so much.

10 PRESIDENT COOPER: All right. Next I'd like  
11 to call up Pri Galati.

12 MR. GALATI: Hello. Hi. Good evening,  
13 Police Board and Superintendent and all the other  
14 police accountability agencies.

15 I'm here honestly just perplexed  
16 about this Consent Decree and percentages you  
17 guys are talking about, because two nights ago at  
18 the police district meeting in the 2nd Police  
19 District, the head of the Independent Monitoring  
20 Team, Maggie Hickey, she laid out their latest  
21 report and said that they were -- you guys are at  
22 7 percent full compliance. That is less than 40  
23 paragraphs of your 552. Now, two nights ago she  
24 told me this. So I'm just confused at these

1 numbers that we're getting from you guys on the  
2 Board. And I'm excited that the report is going  
3 to be released early November for 2024, so that  
4 can be laid out more plainly. But when we talk  
5 about this, it came out of Laquan McDonald's  
6 death in 2017. How are we as a police department  
7 at 7 percent full compliance? Right? Is that  
8 seven years? I'm confused. If that's the thing  
9 we're trying to serve, why do we have a police  
10 union that has more power than you all as a  
11 department?

12                   Something needs to change, and I  
13 really hope that you all in charge are doing  
14 that, being part of that. I know there's a lot  
15 of sticky rope, but you all need to cut through  
16 it. This is not part of it. It is not a  
17 political thing. It's a people dying thing.  
18 Thank you.

19           PRESIDENT COOPER: So, Mr. Galati, I know you  
20 raised a question about various numbers being  
21 raised, and I think it's important to convey to  
22 the public that there's different departments and  
23 agencies who are responsible for fulfilling  
24 certain individual goals.



1 I know that the Board tonight  
2 talked about their compliance with certain  
3 aspects that are directed to the Board. I know  
4 Chief Kersten talked about COPA's compliance.

5 So I think to the extent that there  
6 is -- was some confusion who's in compliance and  
7 who's not, it may relate to the specific  
8 departments and agencies with respect to their  
9 various levels of compliance.

10 I know that there's a report that's  
11 going to be coming out. I just wanted to respond  
12 to that to help alleviate.

13 The next speaker who has signed up  
14 to speak is Tara Henderson.

15 MS. HENDERSON: Good evening. I know you all  
16 would like us to go again, but we ain't going  
17 nowhere.

18 I know you gave a round of applause  
19 for the good -- for the one-year training for the  
20 DNC, correct? Everybody, let's applaud them  
21 following rules and not chasing people and  
22 killing people. Let's do training for that. Can  
23 we give a round of applause to that? Give a  
24 round of applause to that?

1                   Just like you say training them,  
2                   all -- that is one year. One year, right? You  
3                   all had a wonderful outcome. Crime is down,  
4                   everything. So what's the problem with the other  
5                   part? What they don't get about that? They  
6                   still break the foot pursuit policy and chase and  
7                   murder people again just like, Oops, I thought  
8                   they were going to shoot, oops. That don't get  
9                   it. And then here we go, we waited 90 days,  
10                  August the 29th was 90 days for you to make a  
11                  decision or give us a decision on which way we  
12                  was going, and here we is. It's going to be  
13                  September the 29th. We still don't know nothing.  
14                  But our son still is dead.

15                  Like I said, his birthday is  
16                  tomorrow. He would have been 26. I don't know  
17                  what's so hard. You got the rules. You say you  
18                  could look them up. You know this, right? It's  
19                  in black and white. What's so hard? Why we  
20                  still waiting? They said don't chase him. They  
21                  did. You say -- you all did a wonderful job of  
22                  upholding the First Amendment. What about the  
23                  Fourth Amendment? What about that one? What  
24                  about activating the body cam. We don't know if

1 they gave a command, Put it down. Stop. We  
2 don't know what happened because they broke so  
3 many rules to kill my child that day. And we  
4 still come -- you think I want to be here talking  
5 to y'all today. I feel like hell. I feel like  
6 hell. My baby won't see his birthday, nor I  
7 can't call my son, nor I can't hug him because  
8 I'm here with you all. I'm here talking to  
9 y'all. I had to leave work. I'm here talking to  
10 y'all again. It don't look like it's going to be  
11 an end in sight. You got the power to change it.  
12 You know the rules. You're a police officer.  
13 How long have you been an officer, sir?

14 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: 32 years.

15 MS. HENDERSON: 32 years. That's a lot of  
16 time, 32 years. So you know the black -- you  
17 know the logistics of this, you know.

18 And I understand that you want to  
19 hold up and like, Okay, yes, he don't deserve.  
20 Yes, he do. My son didn't deserve to die. Let  
21 his ass go. Excuse my French, but let him go  
22 because we're dying over here. We're dying.  
23 He's dead and we're dying. I want to kill  
24 myself. I have to look at my grandkids and my

1 other children to stay here.

2 I drive on the expressway, and I  
3 just feel like running into anything, anything so  
4 this pain can stop. It's like it's not that  
5 hard. He was wrong. He was wrong, wrong, wrong.  
6 He was wrong. Do something.

7 You going to talk?

8 PRESIDENT COOPER: Yes, you guys have all  
9 signed up.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you hear me? I am  
11 Reginald Clay's older sister. And I don't  
12 usually come up here to talk because I feel like  
13 it's a waste of time; you guys don't really hear  
14 or care, but I just want to say every day my  
15 family wakes up broken. We wake up to a new  
16 life, a new life without my brother.

17 And I just talking the other day, I  
18 don't feel like I can do life without my brother.  
19 For me to be his older sister and for him to go  
20 before me, it hurts my heart. I miss my brother  
21 every day. And at times, like she said, you  
22 know, you want to hurt yourself because you don't  
23 want to feel this anymore. I want to go  
24 sometimes. I want to check out, but I can't

1 because I have kids, I have a husband. But I  
2 want to check out because I want to talk to my  
3 brother and see if he is okay. I want to know  
4 what happened.

5 At the end of the day, I have to  
6 wake up to a new life that no one -- I will never  
7 see him or talk to him again. And we are forced  
8 to wake up every day without him.

9 And I want to say happy 26th  
10 birthday to my brother who can't be here for his  
11 birthday.

12 MR. CLAY, SR.: You know, I'm at a loss of  
13 words right now. You know what I'm saying? I  
14 got a lot of emotions going through me right now,  
15 you know, because, uh, my son's birthday  
16 tomorrow, you know, and, uh, I'm hurting right  
17 now. You know what I'm saying? I'm numb. I  
18 just don't understand how hard it is for you guys  
19 to make decisions, man. You know, we all human,  
20 man. You know, you guys got this robotic system,  
21 man. You guys, you know, help your peers. Your  
22 peers doing something wrong. Man, why help them,  
23 man? You know what I'm saying? Why stand next  
24 to them, you know? You don't see my family, man?

1 My family tore down, man, by this. Other  
2 families torn down behind this.

3 We don't want to come up here and  
4 plead and speak with you y'all and tell y'all --  
5 you know what I'm saying -- what you know is  
6 right from wrong. You understand what I'm  
7 saying?

8 This is really, really truly  
9 heartbreaking right now -- you know what I'm  
10 saying -- for my family, you know, and I know  
11 y'all got a job to do. You understand what I'm  
12 saying? It's none of y'all's fault sitting up  
13 here right now. It is the officer fault that did  
14 this to my son, you know.

15 And I was here last time, and I  
16 spoke with you all, you know, pleaded with you  
17 all, and I'm back pleading again, you know,  
18 because we ain't haven't heard a decision yet  
19 when it comes to this situation. I guess they  
20 had meetings or whatever that is. You know what  
21 I'm saying? We don't know because we new to  
22 this. You know what I mean? We can only go off  
23 what people tell us -- you know what I'm  
24 saying -- because, like I said, we're new to this

1 situation.

2 But, man, I just want to say happy  
3 birthday to my son, man. Long live my son  
4 Reginald Clay, Junior. Real rough, man. Real  
5 rough.

6 RABBI BEN YOSEF: Say his name. Say his  
7 name. Say his name. Say his name. Say his  
8 name. No justice, no peace. No justice, no  
9 peace.

10 (Audience singing happy birthday.)

11 RABBI BEN YOSEF: Long live Reggie.

12 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Clay Family.

13 Next person who signed up to speak  
14 is Pastor Doyle.

15 PASTOR DOYLE: Good evening. For the record,  
16 D, as in David, O-Y-L-E. This land is your land,  
17 R-Y.

18 So what I just handed the  
19 Superintendent was paper. Back on January 23rd  
20 in Chinatown, I'm sure he really wanted to  
21 strangle me, but I said on the mic in front of  
22 Alderwoman Nicole Lee, in seven months, the DNC  
23 is the day after, what does Chicago look like?  
24 You can do the research and see the exchange.

1 All I'm going to say on that matter is sometimes  
2 you speak things into existence.

3 With that being said, this is hard,  
4 because there are children in the room, but it is  
5 what it is. This has been a very, very, very  
6 hard month for me, because as I've shared  
7 previously, I'm a Hawkeye. When I am not here,  
8 I'm in Iowa. And 30 years ago, my young girls,  
9 we went to a screening of Forrest Gump, and the  
10 character that resonated most with them was  
11 Jenny. And it was hard for me then a 24-year-old  
12 to hear what was happening, and I wasn't prepared  
13 for it in terms of in their homes and in their  
14 schools.

15 Fast forward a week ago in Cedar  
16 Rapids, Iowa, on the record, some of those now  
17 grown women started naming accusers hard. So the  
18 very next night here in Chicago at a local school  
19 council meeting for Kenwood Academy, with a  
20 mother in the room, I, on the record, after  
21 asking for the meeting to be recorded, I stated  
22 that a Kenwood Academy employee was having active  
23 sexual relations with a student. When I say hard  
24 in terms of the actual -- because I have a



1 proposal on the table with regard to the actual  
2 Chicago Public School reporting policy. The  
3 first thing that it says is ensure the safety and  
4 well-being of the party disclosing to you.

5 Now, I'm a Marine Corps veteran, and  
6 when I say all of a sudden a CYA was in effect.  
7 Chicago Public Schools needs more stringent  
8 policy with regard to reporting sexual abuse. I  
9 think that's a dressed-up word. I prefer the  
10 word rape, because at the end of the day, in this  
11 new -- in this new awareness that what happens to  
12 a child shows up in the adults. This past week  
13 in terms of communication where, again,  
14 individuals are CYA, I'm asking the  
15 Superintendent and the CEO, if he is still the  
16 CEO by the end of the year, to have a more direct  
17 policy in terms of a parent and a victim going  
18 straight to a district and starting the process  
19 there, because you have active Chicago Police --  
20 scratch. Active Chicago Public School employees  
21 being very open as if nothing can happen with  
22 Chicago Public School students, and because I'm a  
23 double product, when I say it's nothing new,  
24 that's my focus that I didn't ask for, but as a

1 pastor and Marine Corps veteran, I just believe  
2 in doing what's right.

3 So I want this on the record  
4 recorded because, again, a week later people  
5 still playing CYA. And, again, the mother of the  
6 victim was in the room at Kenwood Academy on  
7 September 11.

8 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Pastor.

9 PASTOR DOYLE: Thank you.

10 PRESIDENT COOPER: The next individual who  
11 signed up to speak is Ms. Cece Edwards.

12 MS. EDWARDS: Good evening, Board, and good  
13 evening, Superintendent. The reason why I came  
14 today to speak is for, number one, to say thank  
15 you for the -- I would call it great police work  
16 and public safety which is what we have been  
17 fighting for for a very long time.

18 14 months ago, we were able to  
19 secure parts of 75th Street from State to Cottage  
20 Grove. This weekend -- and I want to thank  
21 Commander Tate and Commander Branch, because we  
22 are fully in support of their actions -- they  
23 blocked off the street. This was great. A lot  
24 of people were able to sleep that night. A lot

1 of seniors were able to rest comfortably in their  
2 homes, and I, too, felt safe. I felt maybe I  
3 better go for a walk, but I decided against that.  
4 In the interim we have worked very hard. And  
5 today I can say this, that because we need to  
6 work together with the Consent Decree and with  
7 the community, with young people, this is why I  
8 gave you those brochures. This was an  
9 accumulation of about four, five years of work,  
10 and I will give you another one to share. You  
11 have to share.

12 But this is one of the premier --  
13 I'll call it the midnight circus because it is  
14 one of the premier activities that we have used  
15 to attract young people to get them involved in  
16 jobs and protection and also have fun. And I  
17 want to thank Chief Talley for her diligence in  
18 having the Police Department come out to our park  
19 and recruit, and they did a wonderful job. They  
20 had so much fun, and they also said we've never  
21 been to a circus. We never have done this  
22 before. And they just did a wonderful job, and I  
23 wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my  
24 heart. Thank you very much.

1           PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Ms. Edwards.

2                           The next individual I'd like to call  
3 to speak is Ms. Janet Martin-Fox.

4           MS. MARTIN-FOX: Well, good evening,  
5 citizens, Superintendent Snelling, and the Police  
6 Board. I want to -- my name is Janet Martin-Fox.  
7 I'm a volunteer for the 3rd District under the  
8 Commander Branch and been proud of it for some  
9 years now. I'm also a court advocate, and a  
10 block club member of the 66 South Wabash Avenue.  
11 I want to thank the Police Department districts  
12 and all our Fire Department districts for  
13 protecting our DNC meeting and also our Commander  
14 Tate during the time of August 18th -- August  
15 18th through August 24th, as well as protecting  
16 our community as they were short-staffed. It was  
17 great that we had that protection. We have our  
18 arms around you guys always.

19                           Reading from this. Our community  
20 would like to see our CPD as well as our CFD work  
21 more closely together in bringing our communities  
22 together.

23                           My husband is a retired fireman.  
24 We're trying to at least try to have everybody

1 work together. Also, I want to thank the  
2 community for the police, beautiful national  
3 night out, August 6th. I thought that was so  
4 great. Everybody enjoyed themselves. The whole  
5 City was involved. And it would be great if we  
6 could combine the Fire Department as well as the  
7 Police Department to do these events and come  
8 together and be more closely working with our  
9 community.

10 They are both our first responders,  
11 and to participate together on these and other  
12 events, it would be a great blessing to see that  
13 happen every year, and I want to thank you.

14 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Ms. Martin-Fox.

15 I'd like now to call Jennifer  
16 Edwards.

17 MS. EDWARDS: I just want to mention, and the  
18 reason you see officers here from different  
19 districts and whatever, we're here to say thank  
20 you. Okay?

21 Now before the DNC, we -- the ones  
22 that people in the community reach out to us when  
23 they need the police, instead of calling 911,  
24 they call us. They said, Oh, we going to be in

1 trouble. We ain't going to have no police. They  
2 going -- it's going to be mayhem. It's going to  
3 be all kinds of stuff going on. Well, it was  
4 quiet. Okay. Very, very quiet. So then they  
5 did call back and they said, Mmm, it was quiet.  
6 What happened? What's going on? What's that  
7 Superintendent doing? Because they always blame  
8 me for something that he does. Okay. So I said,  
9 Well, they had it together. It was everybody  
10 working together. So we want to say thank you.

11 So what I want to do is read some  
12 of the officers that we have -- names that we  
13 work with over the past -- how many years now? I  
14 don't know. How many years. But I'm going to  
15 read them quickly, and these are names of retired  
16 officers and current officers. Okay. Mark  
17 Yelverton. Angel Novalez. Dorothy Kay Collins.  
18 Fred Lopez. Robert Zielinski. Ebony  
19 Braithwaite. Tim Tatum. I can't read my  
20 writing. Officer Ali. Put that in this there.  
21 Dalhia Goris. George Newell. Lori Davis. Alfie  
22 Patterson. Lemond Lee. Yolanda Irby Alexa. Lee  
23 Bielecki. I think he's here. Nidia Rivera.  
24 Victoria Eumana. Byron Jackson. I will be real

1 quick. Dyllus Powell. Frederick Collins. Mitch  
2 Ramirez. Michelle Dertz. Michelle Gaona. Greg  
3 Sloyan. Yolanda Irvin. Michael Tate, my guy.  
4 Okay. Monica Hughes. Nicky Papadopoulos.  
5 Richard Wooten. Rita Pritchett. Happy birthday.  
6 Everybody say happy birthday to Rita. Lieutenant  
7 Clayton. Roderick Thomas. Eric Davis. Adam  
8 Rose. Jeffrey West. Keith Milmine. Senora Ben.  
9 Roger Watson. Melvin Branch, Jose Esquivel.  
10 Scott Oberg. Keith Seals. Davina Ward.  
11 Migdalia Bulnes. Dina Patterson. Janice Wilson  
12 Brown. Barbara Bunville. I'm sure I forgot a  
13 whole bunch of names. We love our officers. We  
14 try to remember them. And we brought things here  
15 just to celebrate our officers, not just  
16 celebrate the Superintendent. Okay? But we want  
17 to celebrate them, and so we're telling the ones  
18 out in the lobby to come and give those sweets  
19 and whatever else, and we just want to say thank  
20 you.

21 Now let's do this again. Let's  
22 make it quiet in the neighborhood. Okay? Let's  
23 recruit some more officers, some more  
24 firefighters, whoever else we can get in there.

1 Let's get it going and let's work with our  
2 community. Okay. Thank you.

3 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Ms. Edwards,  
4 and thank you to all the officers that you  
5 mentioned tonight. Really appreciate your  
6 service and for showing up at the meeting.

7 The next speaker I'd like to call is  
8 Ms. Donna Oliver.

9 MS. OLIVER: Superintendent Snelling,  
10 President Cooper, Board members, and members of  
11 our community. Thank you. Thank you. Two words  
12 that carry a powerful and heavy punch. Words  
13 that express the gratitude of every citizen of  
14 Chicago regarding their safety during the  
15 Democratic convention. We, the citizens, give  
16 thanks to all who put their lives on the line to  
17 ensure this event to be safe.

18 Our elected officials, military,  
19 fire department, hospital staff, Streets and  
20 Sanitation, and et cetera, you came together as a  
21 team and stood by our women and men and children  
22 in the neighborhood, even our cats. And we try  
23 to stand by our men and women in blue.

24 Tonight, members and leaders of



1 community, Organized to Win, Operation  
2 Neighborhood Safety, and Talking Trash, along  
3 with other areas in neighborhoods affiliate wish  
4 to salute and say, Thank you. Thank you to all,  
5 especially our police force, in keeping the peace  
6 in our City and the Democratic convention as a  
7 memory in everybody's mind.

8 The man with the plan. Thank you,  
9 Superintendent Larry Snelling, for standing up  
10 and standing proud with confidence when others  
11 expressed doubt and doom and gloom.

12 There are those whose sole purpose  
13 was to enter this City, whose sole purpose was to  
14 unravel the threads of our hard-working  
15 communities, spewing chaos and demonstrations,  
16 but you said, uh-uh, not today, baby, not on my  
17 watch. This is the day that papa don't take no  
18 mess.

19 Larry Snelling, you showed the  
20 world how your City under your watch with your  
21 team can make a difference. You showed up and  
22 showed out.

23 Giving thanks to God and almighty,  
24 you and your team who work together to keep this

1 City safe, on behalf of Communities Organized to  
2 Win, Operation Neighborhood Safety, Talking  
3 Trash, we'd like to present you with a bouquet of  
4 flowers as an appreciation of love for you and  
5 your department. Thank you.

6 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Ms. Oliver.  
7 Thank you, again, Ms. Oliver.

8 The next speaker we'd like to call  
9 is Mr. Matt Brandon.

10 MR. BRANDON: Good evening, Superintendent.  
11 I have to apologize to you about these senior  
12 citizens groupies that you got. Hey, what can we  
13 do about it?

14 Kudos and thanks have gone out to  
15 the Superintendent and his team for the work they  
16 did during the Democratic National Convention and  
17 rightfully so, but I also want to take the  
18 opportunity to thank the partners of the police,  
19 the community. I was so proud of our communities  
20 because they didn't fall into the trap that was  
21 set for them to go out and perform with the  
22 anarchists who tried to get something started in  
23 our City.

24 So to the community, I say thank

1 you. Thank you, all for supporting our police.

2 To the Board, thank for what you do.

3 To COPA, we know you got a tough job, but we look  
4 forward to you working closely with our Police  
5 Department. And to my team, I want to thank  
6 them, because they went out and did a whole lot  
7 of stuff to put this on, and just to make sure  
8 that you understood how much we support the  
9 police. We know that there's some things that go  
10 down wrong. We know that you're going to work to  
11 get that corrected. And just so the community  
12 knows, we support them 100 percent. Thank you.

13 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Mr. Brandon.  
14 We have two more speakers who are signed up for  
15 public comment tonight. Second to the last  
16 speaker is Pastor Nichols.

17 PASTOR NICHOLS: I said amen. I'm used to  
18 being in church.

19 First of all, I want to thank the  
20 police of Chicago for what they did for the DNC.  
21 I wanted to let you all know that we called a  
22 prayer meeting before you all went out. We  
23 called a prayer meeting, and we had the mothers  
24 of the church, different organizations, we had

1       them on their knees praying that the chaos  
2       wouldn't be as bad as it was. And we thank God  
3       for that. We thank him for that. And also I  
4       want to let everyone know here I'm not  
5       representing any group, per se. I'm a part of  
6       the groups, but I'm not representing them today.

7                   Today I just want to talk about my  
8       conviction. I grew up on the south side of  
9       Chicago, 40th and Vincennes. And we had a saying  
10      in Chicago when I was coming up, false flagging.  
11      People false flagging means you trying to be  
12      something that you are not. So I encountered a  
13      gang member. You know, you go on the wrong side  
14      of the street. I encountered a gang member, and  
15      he threw up a gang sign, and he said "Vice  
16      Lords." So I said, well, "Vice Lords," and he  
17      said "Disciple." I knew I was in trouble. I ran,  
18      and it was a tall fence. I'm short. But that  
19      tall fence, I jumped that fence. Tore my pants.  
20      All my stuff was showing. I did not care. I  
21      wanted to get out of there, because I was false  
22      flagging.

23                   The police colors represent -- the  
24      checkerboard design of pattern of the blue and

1 white squares represents the dedication of the  
2 police officers to provide protection and serve  
3 the Chicago citizens. Give a preacher a  
4 microphone.

5 PRESIDENT COOPER: I know. I'll give you  
6 another minute.

7 PASTOR NICHOLS: I want to talk -- I heard a  
8 gentleman, which was here the other day, talking  
9 about the rainbow. The rainbow represents God's  
10 vow to himself that he would not destroy the  
11 earth again with war. When he -- when I see the  
12 rainbow, it will remind me, I will not destroy  
13 people again with war or with water. It was a  
14 gentleman that said he wanted to have the cars  
15 put on -- rainbow put on the police cars. And  
16 that bothered me when I went home that night.  
17 And that represents something that's totally not  
18 true. The rainbow represents God's promise to  
19 himself. It represents pride. It didn't  
20 represent love. It represented his promise to  
21 himself. The police officers have they colors.  
22 And I want to ask the Police Board to not go  
23 forth with putting colors that does not represent  
24 you on your cars. I might not get a lot of amen,

1 but that's the way it's going to go.

2 I just want to ask the Police Board  
3 to be careful what we do. God is watching, and  
4 he is real.

5 We put the rainbow colors on the  
6 CTA cars, and we have seen just total mess-up  
7 with the CTA now. So I'm just asking, and I'm  
8 going to sit down, but I'm asking the Police  
9 Board please take into consideration what I'm  
10 saying. Let's stay with the colors that  
11 represent you and not go and try to go outside of  
12 what you do. God bless.

13 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Pastor. And  
14 the last speaker we have signed up for public  
15 comment tonight is Mr. Robert More. Mr. More,  
16 are you -- it doesn't look like you are here.

17 With that being said, all members  
18 who signed up to speak have been called. Is  
19 there a motion to adjourn this month's meeting?

20 VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: So moved. Paula  
21 Wolff.

22 BOARD MEMBER CUSACK: Second. Mareile  
23 Cusack.

24 PRESIDENT COOPER: All in favor say aye.

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(CHORUS OF AYES.)

PRESIDENT COOPER: Motion passes. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you, everyone, for coming out. Thank you to the officers and Superintendent.

(WHEREUPON, the proceedings were adjourned at 9:06 p.m.)

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS:  
2 COUNTY OF C O O K )

3

4 MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, C.S.R., being first  
5 duly sworn, says that she is a court reporter  
6 doing business in the City of Chicago; that she  
7 reported in shorthand the proceedings had at the  
8 hearing of said cause; that the foregoing is a  
9 true and correct transcript of her shorthand  
10 notes, so taken as aforesaid, and contains all  
11 the proceedings of said hearing.

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MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, CSR  
License No. 084.002740

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Transcript of Proceedings  
September 19, 2024

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